

Iowa Transportation Coordination Council

November 12, 2014, Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Polk County River Place, Room 3A

2309 Euclid Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50310

MEETING NOTES

I. Call to Order

The November 12, 2014, meeting of the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

ITCC Representatives in attendance:

Kristin Haar, Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) Office of Public Transit, Chair

Cindy Terwilliger, Federal Transit Administration

Mark Bechtel, Federal Transit Administration

Heather Byron, American Cancer Society

Terry Bergen, Iowa Mobility Managers Network

Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit

Scott Anderson, TMS

Hugh Lively, Regional Transit Authority – RIDES

Jennifer Roberts, Iowa DOT Office of Systems Planning

II. Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

III. Biennial Report to Iowa General Assembly and Governor on Transportation Coordination in Iowa

Chair Kristin Haar presented for comments the draft of the *Transportation Coordination in Iowa* report to the Iowa General Assembly and Governor Branstad. This report is required to be produced by the Iowa DOT in even numbered years. Chair Haar pointed out the addition of 'call out' boxes, as suggested at the September 2014 ITCC meeting, highlighting some of the more notable accomplishments over the past two years and the addition of the volunteer transportation provider survey results paragraph.

Opening up the discussion, Jeremy Johnson-Miller suggested adding his work as Statewide Mobility Coordinator with the Aging and Disability Resource Center Options Counselors to cross-train in mobility management. Terry Bergen suggested in future years adding performance measures that could be tracked within the document. Scott Anderson offered to check the number of non-emergency medical transportation rides public transit provided for Iowa's Medicaid transportation broker, TMS, in Fiscal Year 2013 along with the number of bus passes purchased by TMS for Medicaid members.

Chair Haar explained that the report was due to the Governor and General Assembly by December 15, 2014.

IV. Iowa DOT Park and Ride System Plan

Jennifer Roberts presented the final Iowa DOT Park and Ride System Plan. This plan looked at where Iowans are traveling and where park and ride lots would be ideally located. Lot priority was based on commuting data, existing public right-of-way (Iowa DOT, city, county owned), or whether property would need to be purchased.

Chair Haar asked if there was a timeframe for implementing the plan. Ms. Roberts said there was not. Chair Haar asked if any within county commuting data was considered, for example from within Polk County to another Polk County location. Ms. Roberts stated the data was only from county to county. The Park and Ride website being created would start with existing park and ride locations. Terry Bergen asked about the survey response rate. Ms. Roberts stated the survey was representative of all of Iowa, with over 200 responses and 90% believing there should be investment in park and ride locations. Cindy Terwilliger noted there is Federal Transit Administration funding available for park and ride projects.

V. Iowa Commuter Transportation Study

Jennifer Roberts explained the Iowa Commuter Transportation Study is wrapping up. Survey results can be viewed at www.iowadot.gov/commuterstudy. Mark Bechtel noted the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization had recently conducted a similar study from Ames to Des Moines. Ms. Roberts will be invited to speak about the completed Iowa Commuter Transportation Study at the January ITCC meeting.

VI. Member Roundtable

Cindy Terwilliger shared that the draft ADA circular is posted for comments on the Federal Transit Administration website.

Mark Bechtel stated the FTA/Federal Highway Administration/National Highway Traffic Safety Administration are working together to conduct a bicycle safety study in each state.

Heather Byron offered statistics from the American Cancer Society for Calendar Year 2014, through September. 3,232 people in Iowa received 10,000 services. In the road to recovery program, 79 patients received 1,348 volunteer rides. For the lodging program, 28 hotel partners provided stays for 144 patients for 1000-plus nights of free lodging. The Hope Lodge in Iowa City provided 8,463 nights of lodging for cancer patients so far this calendar year.

Terry Bergen noted the Cedar Rapids transportation forum held in September had 80 people in attendance. The Cedar Rapids area Transit Advisory Group is looking into a shared vehicle program with human service agencies and looking into the need for volunteer drivers.

Hugh Lively shared that their Regional Planning Affiliation is taking a more active role in the Transit Advisory Group. RIDES has provided two or three overnight discharge trips since July. RIDES also is working with their mental health care regions, trying to get those regions to provide funding for persons to get to mental health services. Hugh also noted he continues to be active with the Disability Employment Initiative in the local workforce region.

Scott Anderson had no TMS updates.

Jennifer Roberts continues her work with the refugee service planning group in Polk County. She also is working on implementation of the Iowa DOT's Park and Ride System Plan.

VII. FTA Coordination Support Activities

Cindy Terwilliger and Mark Bechtel from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Region 7, were present to discuss FTA's coordination support activities. Ms. Terwilliger distributed a presentation from FTA's Rural and Targeted Programs Division and a list of items the National Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) provides assistance with.

The FTA staff noted that the FTA focus of grant programs currently is health, employment, and transportation.

Ms. Terwilliger informed the group that Rick Opstalten at FTA headquarters is in charge of the United We Ride effort in the Division of Rural and Targeted Programs. That division works with the Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM). CCAM holds staff level meetings with staff from FTA, Health and Human Services (Aging), Department of Labor, and the Veterans Administration attending. Each agency has a requirement for a 'plan' and these staff members are working on synergizing those plans. They are also looking at the results of the Job Access/Reverse Commute program being folded into the 5307 and 5311 funding programs and are planning to present a report to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Ms. Terwilliger noted that a number of technical assistance centers are funded by the FTA: the National Center for Mobility Management, Easter Seals Project Action, National Center for Senior Transportation, and RTAP.

VIII. No Wrong Door Project Update

Kristin Haar updated the group on the No Wrong Door project. The Iowa DOT, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, and Iowa Department on Aging are working together on the statewide network, with the Iowa Department on Aging leading the effort. The project is still on track for completion in September 2015.

Cindy Terwilliger suggested that FTA headquarters staff would want to see a demonstration of the project when it is ready. Ms. Terwilliger also noted that the MARC in Kansas City has an ongoing Veterans Transportation Community Living Initiative project as well.

VI. IMMN Update

Terry Bergen provided the Iowa Mobility Managers Network update. Mr. Bergen stated that the mobility coordinators, at their recent meeting, discussed travel training for mobility managers, non-emergency medical transportation issues, and the new bus service coming to northeast Iowa called EARL. Several of the mobility coordinators have recently held forums or open houses to gather input on passenger transportation and they are working to increase awareness of and involvement in local Transit Advisory Groups.

VII. Statewide Mobility Manager Update

Jeremy Johnson-Miller informed the group he has been active in the Disability Employment Initiative pilot project areas as the statewide mobility manager. One of the success stories Mr. Johnson-Miller noted was the Burlington area partnering with the prison in Mount Pleasant for employment opportunities.

VIII. Other Items of Interest

None presented.

IX. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location:

The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2015, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Polk County River Place, Room 2, 2309 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310.